

VHA Privacy Training

POST TEST

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NAME _____ **LAST 4 OF SSN** _____

DATE _____

1. The Privacy Act of 1974 provides individuals with broad protection from unauthorized use of their records and gives individuals a right to access their records. Which of the following actions would not violate this principle?
 - A. A person comes into the office and claims to be the wife of a veteran. She wants to verify that VA has his correct mailing address. The office staff shows her the veteran's file.
 - B. A doctor from a different VA hospital is working with a current patient and requests to review his medical history. The information is made available to him.
 - C. A person in the office is talking about a veteran's medical information in the cafeteria.
 - D. A person at the pharmacy sees one of his friends picking up some medication. He is concerned about him and asks what he is taking. The pharmacy tech reveals that he is on heart medication.

2. Which of the following is the best definition for individually identifiable health information?
 - A. Health information that identifies or can be used to identify an individual
 - B. Health information that is transmitted or maintained in an electronic medium
 - C. Any information that is created or received by a health care provider
 - D. Any information that is maintained as a part of a system of records

3. Which of the following is not true about VA's commitment to personal privacy?
 - A. Information collected from a patient is used only for legitimate purposes.
 - B. Only authorized personnel within VA have access to personal data.
 - C. Supervisors at VA have the authority to disclose personal information at their discretion.
 - D. VA communicates openly with veterans about their personal information.

4. Given this situation, which is the best answer? An employee of VA wants to create a list of employees' birthdays to share with the rest of the people who work in the office. They have decided to have monthly birthday celebrations. The employee goes through the personal files of her coworkers and writes down their birthdays. Has this person done anything wrong?
 - A. No. This employee did not search for any additional information and the intent was not malicious.
 - B. No. As an employee of VA, this person is authorized to look through all of VA's files.
 - C. Yes. This employee violated the Privacy Act. Employees of VA do not have the right to look up protected information about their colleagues unless their professional duties require it.
 - D. Yes. This employee did not follow proper protocol. Before looking up personal information about other employees, this person should contact her immediate supervisor first.

5. Which of the following actions is contrary to the goal of ensuring privacy?
- A. A coworker asks you to release private data to a person waiting in the reception area, but before doing so, you make sure this was authorized.
 - B. VA no longer needs some outdated files that contain personal information. The files are shredded and disposed of appropriately.
 - C. You believe one of your coworkers may be sick, because she has not been looking well. You consider looking at her personal file, but decide to ask directly if anything is wrong.
 - D. You believe a patient is not receiving proper care. You share this person's file with a friend who is not a VA employee to get a second opinion.
6. Appropriate disposition of protected records includes all of the following except:
- A. Transferring records to a storage facility
 - B. Placing records in the dumpster
 - C. Transferring records to the National Archives
 - D. Destroying records using approved procedures
7. According to the Federal criminal penalties established by Congress, what is the maximum penalty a person can receive for wrongfully obtaining or disclosing protected health information with intent to sell for personal gain?
- A. Up to \$25,000 per person, per year for each requirement or prohibition violated
 - B. Up to \$50,000 and one year in prison
 - C. Up to \$100,000 and five years in prison
 - D. Up to \$250,000 and ten years in prison
8. Which of the following could be classified as medical information?
- A. Current physical condition
 - B. Lifestyle and behaviors
 - C. Medical history
 - D. All of the above
9. Some medical information is considered to be extremely sensitive because of biases people may have against others with a specific medical condition or due to the controversial nature of the information. Which of the following is least likely to be considered extremely sensitive?
- A. A person is diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder, a serious mental health condition.
 - B. A doctor notes in a medical record that a patient has some minor chest congestion due to the common cold.
 - C. A patient receives methadone as a part of treatment for heroin dependency.
 - D. A patient requests an HIV test.
10. Which of the following statements about the exceptions to medical privacy is true?
- A. Privacy is absolute and information must not be disclosed under any circumstances.
 - B. Private information can be disclosed but only with the consent of the individual.
 - C. Information can be disclosed within VA for treatment, payment, and health care operations.
 - D. Information is sometimes disclosed for research even if it can be traced back to an individual.